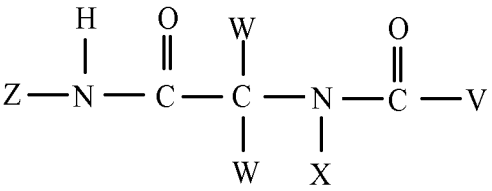
AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

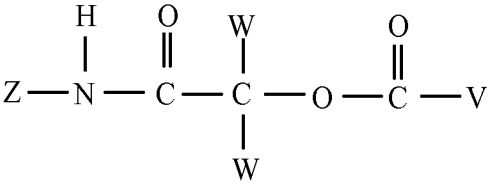
Listing of Claims:

1. (Previously Presented) A compound of the formula



formula (Ia)

or



formula (Ib)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z contains a binding group Y and the residues V, W, X and Z together comprise at least two residues which have formula (IIa)

R_1- $(CH_2$-CH_2-$O)_n$ - CH_2-CH_2-

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

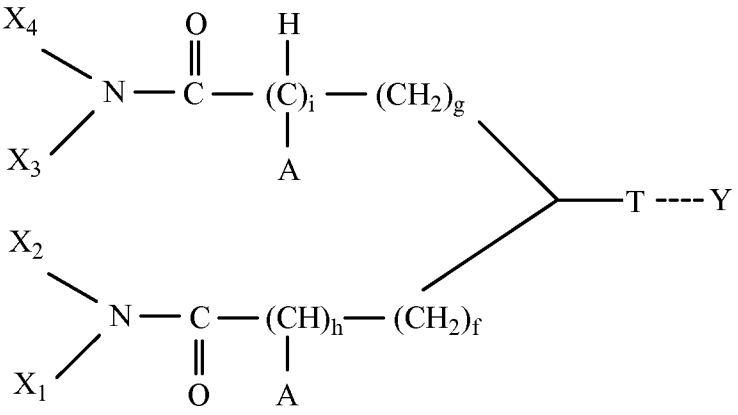
2. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the binding group Y is selected from groups which are able to covalently bind to an amino group, a thiol group, a carboxyl group, a guanidine group, a carbonyl group, a hydroxyl group, a heterocycle, a C-nucleophilic group, a C-electrophilic group, a phosphate or a sulfate, or are able to form a chelate or a complex with metals or are able to bond to silicon-containing surfaces.

3. (Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein the compound comprises at least three residues which have formula (IIa).

4. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z is branched and comprises at least two residues which have formula (IIa).

5. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The compound of claim 1, wherein at least one of the residues X and/or Z additionally comprises a targeting group.

6. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A compound having the formula (XIV)



in which

h and i are, on each occasion independently, 0 or 1,

g and f are, on each occasion independently, an integer between 0 and 10,

A is, on each occasion, H or -(CO)-NX_2, and

X_1, X_2, X_3 and X_4, and also X, have, in each case independently of each other, the meanings given above for X, where formula (XIV) comprises at least two residues which have formula (IIa)

R_1- (CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$ - CH_2-CH_2-

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain 5 heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

7. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) A method for preparing a compound as claimed in claim 1, wherein the compounds of the formulae

$X' - NH_2$ (IV)

$(W')_2C=O$ (V)

$Z' - NC$ (VI),

and

$V' - COOH$ (VII)

are reacted with each other, as starting compounds, in a multicomponent reaction, where V', W', X' and Z' are, in each case independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can optionally contain heteroatoms and/or V', W' and/or X' are hydrogen, where at least one of the residues V', W', X' and Z' contains a binding group Y and where the residues V', W', X' and Z' together comprise at least two residues which have formula (IIa)

$R_1\text{-}(CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}O)_n\text{-}CH_2\text{-}CH_2\text{-}$

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.

8. (Withdrawn-Previously Presented) The method of claim 7, wherein at least one of the residues V', W', X' and/or Z' contains at least one further functionality selected from the group consisting of NH_2, C=O, NC and

COOH.

9. (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a biopharmaceutical, pharmaceutical and/or synthetic active compound.

10. (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to a surface and/or a biocatalyst.

11. (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to an enzyme.

12. (Withdrawn) A conjugate which comprises a compound of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1, which is covalently bonded to medicinal products or adjuvants for administering active compounds.

13. (Previously Presented) A pharmaceutical composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

14. (Previously Presented) A diagnostic composition which comprises a compound as claimed in claim 1.

15. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical for treating cancer or coronary diseases, metabolic diseases, comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

16. (Withdrawn) A method for preparing a substance library, wherein at least two different compounds as claimed in claim 1 are prepared using the method as claimed in claim 7 or 8.

17. (Withdrawn) A substance library which comprises at least two different compounds of the formula (I), as defined in claim 1.

18. (Withdrawn) A kit which comprises:

(a) at least one compound as claimed in claims 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6;

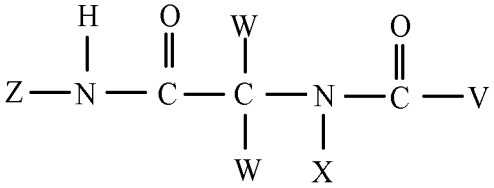
(b) buffer solutions and, where appropriate;

(c) standard proteins and/or means for purifying conjugates which have been formed together with the compound from (a).

19. (Withdrawn) A pharmaceutical composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

20. (Withdrawn) A diagnostic composition comprising the conjugate as claimed in claim 9.

21. (Currently Amended) A compound of the formula



formula (Ia)

in which

the residues V, W, X and Z are in each case, independently of each other, a hydrocarbon residue which can contain heteroatoms and/or V, W and/or X is/are hydrogen, wherein at least one of the residues V, W, X and/or Z contains a binding group Y and in that the residues V, W, X and Z together comprise at least two residues which are terminal groups and which have formula (IIa)

R_1- (CH_2-CH_2-O)$_n$ - CH_2-CH_2-

formula (IIa)

in which

R_1 is H, hydroxy or a hydrocarbon residue which has from 1 to 10 carbon atoms and which can contain heteroatoms, and

n is, on each occasion independently, an integer of from 3 to 1000.